

JOSEPH VanWatten
73 ILLINOIS VOL

GREAT GREAT Great Grandfather
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4226 RIBBER DRIVE
STERLING HEIGHTS

MICH
48810

God Works and none can hinder

God works by means, and he works
Over and above means.

There is according to the opinion of most wise
and good men about to take place a great
Revolution in this nation if not and in all
probability all over the world.

And if god in his providence has so ordered it
all that man can do will amount to nothing
only to prolong the war and ~~make~~ make it more
certain and more powerful perfect and complete
in the end. There is now doubt in my mind
but this war will make an end of slavery.
Slave aristocracy is the cause of the war, and the
slave party began it themselves, so the blame
^{of the war} cannot be laid on us through future history
nor by future generations.

If we had a successfulst Bull's run
and should have overcome and a crushed the
rebellion at that time, Slavery would ^{now} gone on
as it had always done, and in all prob-
ability ~~we~~ we should have the same thing
to do over in a few years that we are a doing
now and be nothing better off for having won
a great battle at Bull's run

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After we had all most gain'd the victory at Bull's run god so ordered it in his providence that our Army met with a reverse and so put back the war for at least one year the best that could be done Our government and leading men began to think there was something to do so they redoubled their energies and were successful in a good many battles fort Henry Fort Donelson, Columbus Pittsburg Landing Peridge New Orleans and many places by which our Commanders and our army won for themselves great fame, but at length they began to meet with reverses and the president had to call for several hundred thousand more men, If we had bin successful and whipt them every time the war woud bin over and slavery woold still exist as it did before but such was not the case it required more men more legislation greater determination less regard for rebels and rebel property finely Lincoln issued his proclamation ^{freeing} the slaves in suring rebellious States and districts nor would that amount to much if the rebels would lay down there arms and return to there allegiance but they will not but resist to the last as did pharao King of Egypt and to there own destruction for we have got the Bull by the horns at last and the rebellion has got to be put down at last and down goes Slavery with it as a ~~banshee~~ once

As natural as any cause will produce an affect
 We are not fighting to free the negroes we are fight-
 ting for the government and the ^{as the union} Constitution.
 The Negroes will fight for their own freedom and
 they are at it all ready and they fight like
 devils at that, you need not be uneasy about
 their fighting if they quit under good head way and
 in large bodies where they will feel their strength
 there are thousands free all ready there is one in
 each company in this army and they express
 a willing ^{ness} to join a black Regiment

I do not believe ~~that~~ that they will all be
 freed now or at the termination of the war
 but I do believe it will be in such a shape
 that it will be a bollished as soon as will
 be good for the Country or the slaves themselves
 and as fast as we can send them off.

Our Forces are in splendid shape for operations
 At the present time ^{Virginia} will have
 to yield or surrender to grant or evacuate,

If Hoocher dont take Richmond I will al-
 ways think he ought to, and there will be
 a big fight at Charleston, and if we
 whip them at all these places it is
 likely they will concentrate all there
 to gather and try old Ross a pop and
 he will be apt I think very very
 certain to knock the Brat in the heel

Some thinks they will evacuate vienburg and²⁴
Richmond and fall on old Rose at once and
drive him out of Tennessee or come in on our
rear and cut off our supplies but they
cant do either for Rosecrans has a large army
well fed and clothed well drilled and in
good spirits and anxious for a fight and would
rather fight here than to run after a fight
they cant cut of our supplies for Burnside
will attend to that, and if they come on us
at once that will only end the war the sov-
er and that is what we want.

The rebels is in a very bad condition now
and getting worse daily they come in to our
lines conscripts some barefooted and in some
instances bare headed and scarcely naked
and the worst of all they are nearly star-
ved and they ought to be for they could do
better and from what I can learn theys nothing
^{but} wont and desolation stering the southern con-
federacy in the face, and they are a trying
to console themselves that the north western
states will break of and join them a very
wild calculation and if they have no better
than that they are whipt already
but it is just like all the calculation
they have always made first king cotton
second help from the north third foreign intervention
all has failed and they consider themselves cordard now

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This is the best government that ever has existed since the world began and no doubt in my mind was according to gods own appointment for hastening on of light and knowledge the down fall of empires and kings the spread of the Christian religion and the bringing around the days when the nations of the earth shall cease to learn war any more, and we shall have peace on the earth and Christ shall reign spiritually a thousand years.

It is the opinion of some, ^{that} the ground heads of the old country may at some day make war upon and try to break down this government and if they do we never could have bin engaged in a war with any foreign nation that would prepare us for a powerful war or that we would have bin able to quit as many men into the field as the war we now have of one half a fightin the other, and if this is gods plan for giving us a great military Scolding preparatory for a great war with Europe and of revolutionising the old world and of establishing Republican forms of government on the earth as well as chastising this nation for the curse of slavery and the freeing of the negro race as well as in some degree of Christianising Africa, Surely god has

put very great responsibilities upon us for the blessings we have enjoyed and if it is all Wright the way for us to do is to stand up to it as good soldiers for our Country and for the Cross of Christ and all will be Wright

When we put down the rebellion and the south becomes reconciled to the north we could contend against the world, and there is no danger but the south will become reconciled for a great part of there army is conscripts and is kept under worse than negroes if they stand picket they have to have volunteers with them to guard them and keep them from running off and joining us and they are coming in every day and sometimes a good many at that God's dealings with his creatures is very mysterious and his ways past finding out Africa is very far gone in the depths of Barbarism and can hardly be Christianized by Missionary operations, Now it is a well known fact that God makes use of very small means to accomplish great ends in first settling America god permitte the negroes to be brought here as slaves and there is no doubt but he for the good of the African race in the end and of the spread of the gospel in africa, if nine millions of Christian people could be sent to africa all the Missionaries that could be sent there ^{would not exist} but this does not justify the ^{them as fast} whites for carrying on slavery in the way they have done of keeping them in ignorance and trying and selling their Women and Children

If the bringing of a few hundred Negroes to America is the cause of a great Revolution in America the spread of the gospel in affected the final overthrow of Kings and Emperors the spread of Political and Religious Liberty all over our world surely it was a very small affair in appearance at the commencement to bring about the greatest events that transpired or ever will transpire in all coming time except the ushering in of the great Millennium I believe this war will make this nation come out like gold tried in the furnace bitter and purer than it ever was and that we will be in possession of all North America from North as far as far as ~~as~~^{as} far as the British dominions to the ~~British~~ for Somes of dorian and we will be the greatest and the freest and the most powerful nation on the earth.

Some people ~~think~~ think that we are nund all ready, that we are involved in a national debt that will hang over us through all future time that is a grand mistake and common sense would teach better the present arrangement would pay the debt before Lincolns time would run out if the war was to close now and suppose it would not the increase of the population would naturally pay it in ten fifteen or twenty years the debt of this war is no greater

than the debt of the debt of the old iron
according to the number of inhabitants and the
wealth of the country and there currency was
in bad faith while ours is as good as gold.
Some think the south will always have ~~a~~⁸ spite
at the north I will tell you what will
cure that all they lack now is information
and to understand the north and they are a
learning very fast and when peace is made
there will be military posts established all
over the south composed of Northern regulars
and they will become more intimate and many
more thorough other and become habituated to
each others customs and manner of life and
thinking

The South is in a mighty strait just at this
time and I think they are a straining there
last nerve and you may be shure the northern
^{Army} holds them to it with a vengeance it is not
our intention to give back an inch I think
Starvation will soon bring them to it, and I
ascertain we can stand it as long as they
can I may be mistakend but my opion is that
when peace does come it will be as unexpected
if it was to come to morrow

Camp on Stone River near Murfreesboro
April 1st and 2nd A.D 1863 by Joseph Van Sathan
to his Family Currency and the Children

It is hard to fight against God
It always was hard for one nation to hold
another race of people in bondage for a great
number of years; And in fact so hard was
it that the oppressed was in many instances
not free by these oppressors.

I should think that Bancroft found that
the way of the transgressor hard if not where
he brought the first ship load of negroes to
America that he has found out before now
that the way of transgressors is hard.
It has bin hard to carry on the African slave
trade ever since.

It was hard to establish Slavery over the
thirteen Colonies, and in fact they could not
for one of the old thirteen was free. And for
so all it was admitted to be no very great sin
yet there was some that held out the ide that
it was an evil and that that it would not do to
spread it all over America, And some of them
was our leading men, Washington not excepted
Although he was a slave holder he was opposed to
the spread of slavery.

It was hard to increase the number of slave states
althou they have ruled this government for 90
years, but the old states has dropt off from

There number and they got a share of the new
slave states by intrigue and threatening to dissolve
the union and so held there ^{own} tolerably well for
for a number of years but they found it very hard.
They contrived a war in Florida with the Indians
on some minor pretext which was none other
than a negro slave and it cost the government
Forty million Dollars and it was hard to
keep the north in ignorance as to that.
They found it hard to quit Missouri and with a
with a compromise at that. They tried to gain
Illinois but they could not gain it.
They turned there attention towards Texas and
got her by the hardest and got a long war with
Mexico.

Last of all they South tryed to jayhawk in
Kansas but they found that to hard for all
there skill as well as force
The next thing I shall notice is the unfairemea
ns to nom Dugliss out of his nomination when
he should have had it by all the rules and
usages of free governments but a minority
carried the day and they ceded and called
another convention and nominated ~~the~~ Bro
enrige, but they squabled over the cession
principle till they defeated themselves and
Mr Lincoln got the Presidency by a fair election

They thought that was to hard for to "submit to be ruled as governed by a Republican President, he would free all the negroes there nor would they believe a word to the contrary clearly proving that a guilty conscience needs no condemning they took shadows for bodies and appearances for substance and they have had a hard time of it ever since

When the Southern states had bin defeated the in choice of a president they concluded that they would go out of the union they thought it would be an eas matter just to walkout of the union and to take about 13 states with them. They thought it would not be hard they did not believe that they would bring war upon them themselves but that the north would just let them go out without making any fuss about it they flattered themselves that the Northern Yankees lacked pluck that they wo -uld not fight the south couldent do it they said one southern man could whip three northern men, They said they would winter an army in Newyork or in the north quicker than the north would winter one in the south The leading men of the south told the people that Cotton was king that the north was deviled that England and France would acknowledge their independence,

And that they would make an easy thing
of breaking down this government and of estab-
lishing there Southern Slave aristocratic gov-
ernment, but they met with disappointment
on every hand. They found it hard to take fort
Sumter. And they found it hard when the
blockading of the southern ports took place.
They found the way of transgressors hard at
the Battle of Bull Run if they did gain the day
with all advantages, hard at Fort Donelson
hard at Fort Henry harder still at Pittsburg
landing. And also the cask in Missouri
has found out that the way of the transgressor
was hard. The rebels in Kentucky has found
it hard. Tennessee has found out the joke
and so has Virginia with a part of her taken
off and a free state made of it. When King cotton
failed and England and France failed to acknowledge
their independence or the Democrats in the north
failed to take up arms and help them as they
expected and our forces was during their own
and over there own country eating up everything
and leaving the country desolate surely
must have thought that the way of the
transgressor was hard. When a whole brigade
fought the 73 Illinois at Perryville for 1 hour and 1/2
minutes and went off with 150 men not ^{but} ~~they~~ got
a hit, and at Stone River they found out that
we could whip them 2 to one.

Midnight Thoughts

God send how soon this war may end
 of all the wars that ever has bin or ever
 will be I think this war is the most helish
 the most fiendish the most destructive of
 life and property of any other and of might
 ad of more is also, Fiendish because it has bin
 a deep laid plot by a Southern Secret order
 for 30 years that was determined to rule or
 ruin this government and to spread Slave
 ry all over the Southern part of North Amer-
 ica and at the expence of the government
 and come very near bringing there purposes
 to an end. The most destructive because they
 the South will have no peace only on there own terms
 and have ^{got} all there force out and we are oblige to
 beat them clear out before they will give it
 up and the consequence is we are oblige to
 loose of great many men from Disease as well
 as bullets. Destructive of property is a natural
 consequence where such a large army goes.
 demoralising in its effects is also natural
 where there is so many men together

When the war will end god only knows I am
 shure I dont but I am in hopes it will
 not be long I am as keen for it to end as
 any man can be but I dont want it

Fill an honeralel peace can be obtained
and the union restored the hole union
as it was and the glorious old Stars and
Stripes shall float from every Dome and
Steeple in the old federel union and we
shall have peace and harmony through out
our land, This is the sentiment throughout
the army, Officers and men this war is of such
a nature that nothing else can ever be,
As much talk as there is in the month
about peace and compromise they talk as did
the foolish women spoken of in scripture they
dont no what they are a harping over for
there can never be a compromise but for them
to lay down there arms and retire from the
field and frame a ^{state} Constitution and apply
for admittance into the union, if they are out.
We have got the south know where they cant help
it, ^{themselves} we can hold what we have got and they are
a starving out very fast and they have more
consripts than any thing else and the most
of them are union men and run of to our
lines as fast as they can quit a way and
the rebels hang or shoot some every saturday
and you no such hellish work as that
will not do that it can not prosper, and
if the littil slimy ^{copper headed} one eyed cripel'd neck
need short sited dragons would only stay

Mr. there dens a littel while and not give
false light to there Father Davis on the
Devil the Father, Devils and so incourage
the south this war would end inside of
3 months and for all the good any help will
do them from the north I wish they had
them all in there ranks now and we wou-
ld soon clean them out, for they are a pit-
iful ignorant short-sited, fuisilinomous pups
that will never fight much any place and
~~if~~ if Davis leans on a broken staff if that
is the best he has, Our ranks is filling up
every day our men is well fed and clothed
the health is good and the army is in good
spirits and if our army could take
Vicksburg Richmond and Charleston the
fighting would be over, and we returning
to arms not of iron and steel but to
the arms of our friends the arms of wives
and parents sweethearts and loved ones
that will make our hearts glad indeed
The South from what I can learn is in very
short rations and people that ought to
be in very good circumstances is begining
on the streets of ~~Richmond~~ Richmond for bread
and I dont know citizens will help com-
ing to the same fate in our littel
Town of Murfreesboro

Well I think that old dragon is a
laying in his bed licking about to
know and has bin for a long time
and when he got up the rebellion then
he showed his remarkable head or I he'd
and 10 horns and if the wine press
was fought at Ma'irfreedboro I hope it was
for I don't want to see another battle won
see Jeff Davis has bin the ring leader of a
Southern conspiracy and he a ~~sworn~~
cer of the united States of America
and it was cold States Rights Club
and then it was charged to rights
of the golden circle, so when you
here people talking about State rights
State Sovereignty & greater Sovereignty
and all this kind of thing you may
no what is the matter they are under
bad influence or they belong to the
order, and when the war ends they
will have to render an account to the
thousands that will return from the
field of battle

I wrought you a letter the day you
wrought yours Joseph T. W. Sattin
to his family.